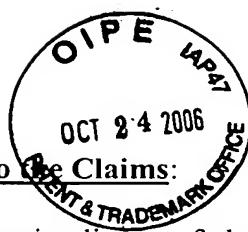


Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) A component-tape connecting member for connecting a leading end portion of a component tape and a trailing end portion of another component tape, each of the component tapes including a carrier tape and a plurality of electronic circuit components arranged on and held by said carrier tape, and being to be fed in a longitudinal direction thereof for sequentially positioning the electronic circuit components in a component supplying position,

    said connecting member including an information medium portion which enables information to be readable from said information medium portion.

16. (Previously Presented) A component-tape connecting member according to claim 15, wherein said information medium portion enables the information to be readable from said information recording portion, without said information medium portion being brought into contact with a device which reads said information from said information medium portion.

17. (Previously Presented) A component-tape connecting member according to claim 15, wherein said information medium portion stores information relating to said component tape.

18. (Previously Presented) A component-tape connecting member according to claim 15, being a connecting tape.

19-26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously Presented) A component-tape connecting member according to claim 15, wherein said information medium portion enables the information to be writable to said information medium portion.

28. (Currently Amended) An electronic-circuit-component supplying system using the component-tape connecting member defined in claim 15, said system comprising:

a tape feeder which supplies each of the plurality of electronic circuit components to the component supplying position, by feeding the component tapes in said longitudinal direction thereof;

a tape connecting device which connects the ~~leading~~trailing end portion of the component tape as a preceding component tape and the ~~trailing~~leading end portion of the another component tape as a following component tape, through said component-tape connecting member which is provided with said information medium portion;

a component-tape information reading device which reads component-tape information relating to the following component tape and represented by said information medium portion; and

an information generating portion which generates variable information varying depending upon whether said component-tape information read by said component-tape information reading device is device corresponds to predetermined information or not.

29. (Previously Presented) An electronic-circuit-component supplying system according to claim 28,

wherein said component-tape information reading device includes a component-tape code recognizing device which recognizes a component-tape code as said information medium portion provided in said component-tape connecting member,

and wherein said information generating portion generates the variable information varying depending upon whether said component-tape information represented by said

component-tape code, which is recognized by said component-tape code recognizing device, corresponds to said predetermined information or not.

30. (Previously Presented) An electronic-circuit-component supplying system according to claim 29, further including a component-tape code providing device which provides said component-tape code in said component-tape connecting member.

31. (Previously Presented) An electronic-circuit-component supplying system according to claim 30, further including:

a code-carrying connecting-member preparing device which provides said component-tape code in said component-tape connecting member,

wherein said code-carrying connecting-member preparing device includes:

a storing-member code recognizing device which recognizes a storing-member code provided in a tape storing member storing the component tape; and

a connecting-member code providing device which provides said component-tape connecting member with said component-tape code in the form of an identification code which represents information corresponding to said storing-member information which is represented by said storing-member code recognized by said storing-member code recognizing device.

32. (Previously Presented) A connecting-member supplying device for supplying the component-tape connecting member defined in claim 27, said connecting-member supplying device including:

an information reading and supplying device which reads, from a storing-member-information medium portion, information relating to the component tape, and which supplies said information, said storing-member-information medium portion being provided in a tape storing member which stores the component tape such that the component tape can be taken

out of said tape storing member, with the leading end portion being first pulled out of said tape storing member;

an information writing device which writes at least a part of said information supplied from said information reading and supplying device, to a connecting-member information medium portion as said information medium portion provided in said component-tape connecting member, such that the written part of said information is readable from said connecting-member information medium portion; and

a supplying portion which holds said component-tape connecting member, and allows supply of said connecting member after said part of said information is written to said connecting-member information medium portion by said information writing device.

33. (Previously Presented) An electronic-circuit-component supplying system using the component-tape connecting member defined in claim 27, said system including:

a tape feeder which includes (a) a storing-member holding portion holding a tape storing member storing the component tape, and (b) a feeding device feeding the component tape in said longitudinal direction, by taking the component tape out of said tape storing member, such that the leading end portion of the component tape is first pulled out of said tape storing member, whereby said electronic circuit components are sequentially positioned in the component supplying position;

an information reading and supplying device which reads, from a storing-member-information medium portion provided in said tape storing member, information relating to the component tape, and which supplies said information;

an information writing device which writes at least a part of said information supplied from said information reading and supplying device, to a connecting-member information medium portion as said information medium portion provided in said component-tape connecting member, such that the written part of said information is readable from said

connecting-member information medium portion; and

a supplying portion which holds said component-tape connecting member, and allows supply of said connecting member after said part of said information is written to said connecting-member information medium portion by said information writing device.

34. (Previously Presented) An electronic-circuit-component supplying system according to claim 33, further including:

a connecting-member information reading device which is disposed in the vicinity of feed path of the component tape and which reads said written part of said information from said connecting-member information medium portion; and

a different-information generating portion operable, when said part of said information read by said connecting-member information reading device is different from predetermined information, to generate information indicating that the read information is different from said predetermined information,

wherein said electronic-circuit-component supplying system stops supply of said electronic circuit components in accordance with said information generated by said different-information generating portion.

35. (Previously Presented) An electronic-circuit-component mounting system using the component-tape connecting member defined in claim 15, said system including:

a board holding device which holds a circuit board;

a tape feeder which positions each of the plurality of electronic circuit components in the component supplying position, by feeding the component tapes connected to each other by said component-tape connecting member;

a mounting device which receives the electronic circuit components positioned in said component supplying position by said tape feeder, and mounts said electronic circuit components onto said circuit board held by said board holding device;

a tape information reading device which is disposed in the vicinity of feed path of the component tapes and which reads information from said information medium portion provided in said component-tape connecting member; and

a different-information generating portion operable, when said information read by said tape information reading device is different from predetermined information, to generate information indicating that the read information is different from said predetermined information.

36. (Previously Presented) An electronic-circuit-component mounting system using the component-tape connecting member defined in claim 27, said system including:

a board holding device which holds a circuit board;

a tape feeder which includes (a) a storing-member holding portion holding a tape storing member storing the component tape, and (b) a tape feeding device feeding the component tape in said longitudinal direction thereof, by taking the component tape out of said tape storing member, such that the leading end portion of said tape is first pulled out of said tape storing member, whereby the electronic circuit components are sequentially positioned in the component supplying position;

an information reading and supplying device which reads, from a storing-member-information medium portion provided in said tape storing member, information relating to the component tape, and which supplies said information;

an information writing device which writes at least a part of said information supplied from said information reading and supplying device, to a connecting-member information medium portion as said information medium portion provided in said component-tape connecting member, such that the written part of said information is readable from said connecting-member information medium portion;

a supplying portion which holds said component-tape connecting member, and allows

supply of said connecting member after said part of said information is written to said connecting-member information medium portion by said information writing device;

a mounting device which receives the electronic circuit components from said tape feeder, and mounts the electronic circuit components onto said circuit board held by said board holding device;

a connecting-member information reading device which is disposed in the vicinity of feed path of the component tape and which is operable, upon approximation of said connecting member to said reading device, to read said written part of said information from said connecting-member information medium portion; and

a different-information generating portion operable, when said part of said information read by said connecting-member information reading device is different from predetermined information, to generate information indicating that the read information is different from said predetermined information.

37. (Previously Presented) A component-tape information providing method, by using the component-tape connecting member defined in claim 27, which is practiced for providing the information relating to one of the two component tapes, in said component-tape connecting member which includes a connecting-member information medium portion as said information medium portion and which connects the leading end portion of said one of the two component tapes with the trailing end portion of the other of the two component tapes that precedes said one of the two component tapes, so that supply of the electronic circuit components through the preceding component tape is followed by supply of the electronic circuit components through the following component tape, said method including:

an information reading step of reading said information from a storing-member information medium portion which has said information stored therein and which is provided in a tape storing member storing said following component tape; and

an information writing step of writing at least a part of the read information, to said connecting-member information medium portion provided in said component-tape connecting member, such that the written part of said information is readable from said connecting-member information medium portion.

38. (Previously Presented) An electronic-circuit-component supplying method by using the component-tape connecting member defined in claim 27, which is practiced for sequentially positioning the electronic circuit components in the component supplying position so as to supply said electronic circuit components, by feeding the component tapes in said longitudinal direction thereof, said method including:

a component supplying step of supplying the electronic circuit components through a preceding component tape which is one of the component tapes;

a first information reading step of reading, at latest before completion of supply of the electronic circuit components through said preceding component tape, information relating to another of the component tapes which follows the preceding component tape, from a storing-member information medium portion provided in a tape storing member which stores said another of the component tapes;

an information writing step of writing at least a part of the read information, to a connecting-member information medium portion as said information medium portion provided in said component-tape connecting member, such that the written part of said information is readable from said connecting-member information medium portion;

a tape connecting step of connecting the leading end portion of said another of the component tapes, to the trailing end portion of said preceding component tape, through said component-tape connecting member provided with said connecting-member information medium portion to which said at least part of said information has been written;

a second information reading step of reading said at least part of said information

written to said connecting-member information medium portion of said component-tape connecting member, when said connecting member reaches a predetermined position in step of the supply of said electronic circuit components through said preceding component tape; and

a switch allowing/inhibiting step of allowing, if the read information corresponds to a predetermined information, switch from said supply of said electronic circuit components through said preceding component tape, to supply of said electronic circuit components through said another of the component tapes, while inhibiting said switch if said read information is different from said predetermined information.